
FINDING AND RECOMMENDATION(S)

Submitted by: California Forestry Association

Finding: Fuels reduction projects incorporating tree thinning and biomass removal are essential to restoring health to Lake Tahoe's forests and to protect against the hazards of catastrophic fires.

Background and Supporting Evidence:

Tree thinning projects such as those performed in the Angora fire area have demonstrated that fire behavior was reduced from a crown fire in untreated areas to a surface fire in the thinned areas. Similar projects on the Plumas National Forest and other Forests within the State have demonstrated similar results.

There currently exists a desired future condition as described in the TRPA Fire Reduction Plan and the US Forest Service Ten Year Forest Plan. In order to achieve the desired future condition, thinning of trees along with removal of ladder fuels and brush must occur on all acres of overly dense vegetation.

Recommendation(s)

Promote projects within the Basin that are multi-year and consider treatment of all sizes of material necessary to achieve adequate fuel reduction. The projects shall have the goal of achieving the desired future condition as stated in numerous agency documents. Multi-year projects: 1) will develop an environment where contractors can plan for work, 2) create competition, and 3) reduce costs.

Impacts of Implementation: *(The implementation of any Recommendation is likely to have specific impacts. Consider potential consequences related to each of the following areas):*

Analysis of impacts on the following factors is REQUIRED (Best Estimate):

☐ Cost

- ☐ Funding source
- ☐ Staffing
- ☐ Existing regulations and/or laws

Properly designed projects to achieve fuels reduction objectives will generally produce sufficient commercial size material to generate sufficient revenue to offset cost of removal of ladder fuels and brush.

With projects that carry most of or all the cost, tens of thousands of acres of hazardous areas in the Basin can be treated annually thereby reducing the risk in a short number of years.

Analysis of impacts on the following factors is OPTIONAL:

- ☐ Operational
- ☐ Social
- ☐ Political
- ☐ Policy
- ☐ Health and Safety
- ☐ Environmental
- ☐ Interagency

Projects similar to those accomplished fall of 2007 need to be used as "demonstration projects" to provide the opportunity for those skeptical to see how mechanical removal can occur with minimal or no measurable disturbance.